

RACE PREJUDICE IN INDIANA

Cuba Not an El Dorado for the Afr American—Dr. Bluit Interviewed—A Graphic Pen Picture of the Doings in Hoosierdom.

Indianapolis, Ind., Special— With much regret I mention a fact detrimental to the principles and reflecting no credit upon the reputation of our state. It was the refusal of the Hotel Doxey, the leading hotel at Anderson, this State, to entertain Booker T. Washington who was engaged as principal speaker at the Indiana League of Republican Clubs, held in that city February 12th. The landlord promptly informed the committee that no colored person would be accommodated at that house. But the remaining hotels as well as the homes of many private individuals were proffered the committee for the use of the distinguished visitor. The incident is much deplored by the committee in charge, and Hotel Doxey comes in for much unpleasant notoriety, made more emphatic by the attitude of the mayor of the city, Mr. Dunlap, who when consulted as to his pleasure about riding with Mr. Washington, replied without a moment's hesitation, "I shall be glad to do so, if Mr. Washington doesn't object," which attitude stands out in commendable contrast to that of the Hotel Doxey management.

A delegation composed of Messrs. Gurley Brewer, George L. Knox, Chas. Brown, John Puryear, Gabriel Jones, James Shelton and S. A. Furness attended the Indiana League of Republican Clubs at Anderson Monday, February 12th.

Since our last letter all that is mortal of R. W. Thompson, that pioneer in the foundation of the sterling statehood which Indiana enjoys, has passed to the great beyond. His death occurred at his home in Terre Haute, February 8th and his funeral which was attended by the Governor and most of the State officers, took place February 12th. He was 91 years of age and yet active in State and National politics until within the last five years.

The new city directory for 1900 gives the population of Indianapolis as 204,518, a gain in the last year of 7,214 inhabitants. Pauperism is the smallest of any city its size in the country, and the statistics show more persons to own or have part interest in their homes than in any city of its size in the United States.

Dr. Lyman Beecher Bluit, formerly of Quincy Illinois, for the past two years a resident of Santiago de Cuba, passed through the city this week en route to his home. Dr. Bluit was assistant surgeon in the United States Army, appointed by Surgeon-General Sternberg, and was assigned to duty with the Eighth Illinois regiment, of felled entirely by colored men. Dr. Bluit left Cuba only ten days ago and has made close observation of the Cuban situation generally and is in a position to give authoritative and at the same time valuable information as to prospects in colored emigration to that island. He is much exasperated at the glowing pictures of Cuba as an Eden for the Negro, painted by American Negroes who have made temporary residence there, and who, he says without known exception, are disappointed in their expectations and eager for opportunity to return to the United States. Notably among whom are

Hon. John L. Waller, ex-Consul to Tamstave, Madagascar, who, while advising colored people to come to Cuba, is seeking means every day to return with his family to this country. Captain Waller, he says, made some money out of his commission as captain of a Kansas company, which however, he has lost by poor investment in Santiago, and is now only making day-laborer's wages, superintending a street gang for the Barber Asphalt Paving Company. Among the drawbacks confronting a colored man going to Cuba, is first the clannishness of the Cubans which amounts almost to a hostility towards Americans and which is in no wise modified toward the American Negro. Hence, professional, commercial or mechanical industries cannot rely upon Cuban patronage or support. The agricultural field is well nigh barred to a man of limited means, because of the great expense necessary the available land from a dense thicket of wild undergrowth and jungle to conditions susceptible of receiving tobacco or other seed. Special implements for this work will also be necessary, all of which must be imported at great cost, also mules which cost \$100 a piece in Cuba. He further says Afro-American sympathy for the Cubans is greatly misplaced and proven by contact with them to be neither desired nor appreciated. He thinks the salvation of the island and the development of rich mineral and agricultural possibilities rest alone on the establishment of a colonial government by the United States. These statements coming from a disinterested source furnishes them a weight not to be accorded administration patrons or pensioners.

A local Afro-American Council has been organized in this city with a favorable outlook.

Bishop G. W. Clinton spent Sunday in the city.

The resignation of the Rev. W. O. White leaves the Ninth Presbyterian church without a pastor.

Prof. Charles S. Sagers, of San Francisco, Cal., author of the drama, "The Negro" is in the city, endeavoring to produce the same here.

The proposed investigation by Prof. W. E. B. DuBois, of Atlanta University, into the career of college bred Negroes, promises interesting detail. He finds that there are between 1,200 and 1,500 Negroes who have been graduated from colleges, and to each of them he will send questions, touching their family and scholastic life, occupation since graduation, literary efforts, official positions and financial success. The data will be furnished in a report to be made to the annual conference to be held at the University next May.

Williams and Walker, the renowned fun makers, played to "standing room only" at the Park theater during the past week. Several "stags" were given the principals and other members of company. LILLIAN THOMAS FOX.

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